

Public Services Committee

February 19, 2019
Park Department Office
521 Robert Ellis Young Drive

Public Services Committee Members Present: Brady Beckham, Juan Topete, James Harrison and Mike Daugherty.

Member absent: None

Staff Present: Tom Short, Alan Bull and Mark Peterson.

Non-Members Present: Ceri Otero.

At 5:16 PM Mr. Topete called the meeting to order.

Mr. Daugherty moved to approve minutes from the January 17, 2019 meeting. Motion carried.

Public Participation: None

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. Consider and discuss possible contract with YMCA for pool management- Mr. Bull reported he had included a copy of the proposed management contract for the next pool season. Mr. Bull pointed out that the YMCA had increased the amount by \$6,000. Mr. Bull explained this was due to the increase in the minimum wage. The Committee looked at what percentage the wage had increased versus what the percentage of the increase was. The Committee felt the increase was more than needed and that the contract amount should be lowered. Also mentioned was the fact that the "true up" clause had been removed. The Committee felt this was a good thing to have in the contract because it protected both groups. Mr. Bull stated he had included this item so it could be discussed and then if there were a need to make changes there would still be time to get it done before the pool opened. The Committee asked Mr. Bull to meet with the YMCA Director and ask to lower the contract amount by \$2,000. Mr. Bull stated he would do that and let the Committee know where it was headed.

2. Consider and discuss rate change for Memorial Hall- Mr. Short presented a possible change for several Memorial Hall rates. He stated the rates hadn't been changed since 2008 and he felt there needed to be some adjustments. Mr. Short stated that he thought the eight and twelve hour rates should be increased by \$25. Mr. Beckham asked how many long term rentals were at the Hall besides the license office. Mr. Beckham also asked about the operating costs of the Hall versus the revenue. The Hall is costing approximately \$173,000 to operate after revenue. Mr.

Short stated one of the larger items is utilities due to the size of the building. Mr. Beckham wondered if there was anything that could be done to help with the heating and cooling costs. Mr. Short also reported on a water leak that the Public Works had tracked down and were able to by-pass. It seems there was about 400,000 gallons of water that had run into the well under the elevator and was pumped out by the sump pump.

Mr. Daugherty moved to recommend to Council increasing the rates at Memorial Hall as presented. Motion carried.

3. Consider and discuss possible grant application for certain capital projects- Mr. Bull reported that a local organization was having a new round of grant applications for projects under \$20,000. Mr. Bull stated he and Mr. Short had discussed possible projects that would meet the requirements of the grant. Mr. Bull felt that a good project would be the construction of two pickle ball courts. Mr. Bull stated he has been constantly asked about when the City would build some courts. Mr. Bull provided a proposed budget showing a total cost of \$14,350. This would include two courts, concrete, fencing, lights, nets and coating. Mr. Bull felt there needed to be two courts at least and when building only one the only increase to two is a little fencing and more concrete really. Mr. Daugherty asked if a motion would be needed. Mr. Short thought that all was needed was direction from the Committee. The Committee was in full agreement for Mr. Bull to apply for the grant.

STAFF REPORTS

City Administrator- Tom Short

Mr. Short reported on golf revenue and rounds. Rounds were still above projections but revenue overall was down about ten percent. But January had actually been a pretty good month with revenues for the month exceeding the projected. Mr. Peterson also noted January being pretty good but warned February had just been terrible due to the weather. It seems there hasn't been a weekend this month with good weather. Mr. Peterson stated he would be coming to the next meeting with some ideas on rate changes, mostly on memberships. There are several things happening in our area that may cause us to make some adjustments this year. Mr. Topete asked Mr. Peterson if he had ever approached anyone in the Spanish community about the possibility of getting some interest in golf from that sector. Mr. Peterson stated he had not done that yet.

Mr. Short also reported applications had closed for the Park Director's position. Mr. Short stated he had received ten applications.

Park Administrator-Alan Bull

Mr. Bull reported that there had been monies from the Civic Enhancement Fund that had run through Committee's and had been approved by Council for expenditure. Mr. Bull stated he had turned in a list of projects along with cost estimates. Mr. Bull wanted to run a couple of the items by the Committee just to make sure everyone was good with the expenditure. The first item was a motor and pump for Kellogg Lake. Mr. Bull explained that the old motor used to fill the Lake had expired and could no longer be rebuilt. Mr. Bull reported they had looked at all the places in

Joplin and had only found two places that could get what would be needed. The other item is a drinking fountain for Central Park. This item would be paid for by money donated to the City for a certain fountain that had a Victorian look. Mr. Bull showed the Committee eight different quotes on the exact same fountain. The low price fell under the amount donated by \$285. The Committee had no problem with Mr. Bull proceeding with the purchase of these items.

Mr. Bull reported that during the cold weather of the last few weeks the maintenance people had been servicing and repairing all equipment.

Mr. Topete stated that he thought the City needed to take a hard look at building soccer fields for adults. Mr. Topete stated there used to be games at Fair Acres but they don't do that anymore due to some changes in how the fields are used. Mr. Topete felt the City was missing out on some tax revenues as there quite a few players from Carthage that were traveling to Monett, Joplin and Neosho to play in adult leagues. Mr. Topete thought Carthage could be capturing some of that play and bringing in some sales tax. Mr. Bull stated he had talked to Mr. Topete about this and thought was really needed was a soccer complex. About four fields, restroom and concession building. This would take more property than some people might realize. And then when you add in parking it would need about twenty acres to make it correctly. Mr. Topete felt it would be a good project and maybe one of the local trusts would be interested in getting involved.

Mr. Daugherty moved to adjourn. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40.